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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

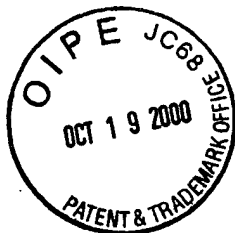
In re the application of:

MAURER et al.

Serial Number: 09/147,036

Filed: December 15, 1998

For: EXPORT SYSTEMS FOR RECOMBINANT PROTEINS



Group Art Unit: 1645

Examiner: Minnifield, N.

**RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NON-RESPONSIVE REPLY**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: October 19, 2000

Sir:

This is a response to the Notice mailed October 4, 2000. Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendment.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 20-40 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims:

306-  
D2  
B1  
(20)  
--41. (New) Process for the preparation of an optionally variant population of surface-exposed peptides or polypeptides and for identification of the bacteria which carry peptides or polypeptides with a particular required property, where the process comprises the following steps: